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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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First prayer rallies held in SW Miss.

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The first eight of a total of 90 prayer rallies took place January 3-4 as part of the Covering Mississippi in Prayer emphasis that will blanket each county in the state with prayer during January, February, and March.

The first rally was held on the morning of Jan. 3 at Woodville Church, Woodville, followed by Ebenezer Church, Liberty; Franklin County Courthouse, Meadville, and Adams County Courthouse, Natchez. The following day, rallies were held at Forest Church, Forest; First Church, Newton; DeWeese Park/City Park, Philadelphia; and First Church, Carthage.

The first two rallies, at Woodville and Ebenezer Church, took on special significance, as these two churches are among the oldest Baptist congregations in an area of the state where Baptists first arrived and began to settle the Mississippi territory. Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), highlighted the significance of each site.

"You really can't characterize these first rallies with a blanket statement, because each was unique," said Futral, "but at each one, any sense of disappointment or discouragement was overcome by the experience."

Five of the rallies took place in church facilities. The Franklin County rally was held inside the entrance area of the courthouse. The Natchez rally was held on the front steps of the Adams County Courthouse, with a chilly afternoon breeze blowing. The Newton County rally was held in a city park under pristine blue skies.

"In each event, there was an emotional intensity as people listened and participated," said Futral. "People left the meetings with definite impressions that God had been there. In one case a pastor left the meeting,



CALL TO PRAYER — Scores of people from the Neshoba County area meet at DeWeese Park in Philadelphia on the afternoon of Jan. 4 for one of 90 prayer rallies that will be held across the state as part of the Covering Mississippi in Prayer emphasis for 2011. (Photo by Tony Martin)

went to his church, and had already called the Baptist Building to order more materials even before we made it to the next site."

A key component of the emphasis has been the call for commitment from Mississippians to join in prayer each morning before 8 a.m. to pray for Covering Mississippi in Prayer.

A lapel pin for the campaign was designed and attached to individual cards on which people can make a commitment to pray for Covering Mississippi in Prayer every day of 2011. The original goal was to have 10,000 prayer warriors committed to the cause. To date, more than 30,000 pins and commitment cards have been distributed.

"In these first eight meetings alone, there have been requests for nine to ten thousand more pins," Futral said.

One pastor embraced Futral, saying, "I've been praying for us to have an experience like this my whole ministry. I just believe God is going to do this all over the state."

Each associational missions director has the responsibility of orchestrating the rallies in his geographical area, with appropriate welcomes, prayers, music, and the handling of other logistical issues. The local involvement has helped contribute to the unique flavor of each rally.

"We want to give messages that are not only meaningful in the context they're presented, but will energize us as leaders too," said Futral.

Steve Stone, MBCB associate executive director for church growth, accompanied Futral to the first eight rallies. "There was a common theme I saw at each of the rallies," Stone said. "The people at each one were recognizing their personal responsibility in prayer. They were saying, 'If God is going to do anything in Mississippi, it has to begin with me. If I don't pray for myself, the rest is going to be in vain.'"

Prayer, according to Stone, will be the bedrock of Covering Mississippi in Prayer. "There is an expectation that God is up to something," he said. "As I talked to folks leaving the rallies, I could see that people are listening to God and trying to recognize what He's doing when He does it. One lady came up to me and said, 'I wish I knew what God is up to.' She wants to discover it for herself."

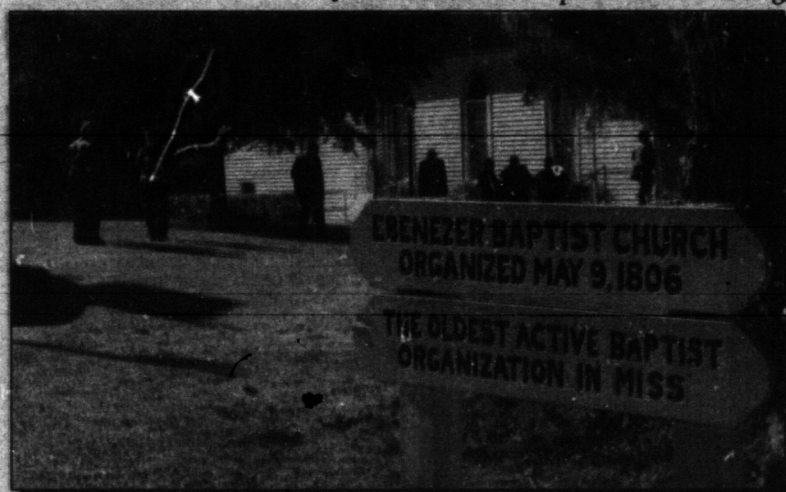
Stone was careful to note that the success of the rallies is due to the work of many people. "We really appreciate the work of the associational missions directors, the associational prayer directors, and the church prayer directors," he said. "They've done so much to get the message to the people in the pew, that this is not just about pastors showing up."

A special resource section of the MBCB web site, www.mbc.org, has been established to assist the planning and promotion of Covering Mississippi in Prayer. The section includes items on getting started, training events, teaching on prayer, clip art, and a listing of rally dates, times, and locations. The calendar can also be found on page nine of the Covering Mississippi in Prayer Resource Guide insert of the 2011 Church Design Handbook.

"The rallies aren't the end, but the beginning," said Stone.

"If each one of these rallies becomes an encounter with God — something of a solemn assembly — we've accomplished what we set out to do," said Futral. "This is a 'right thing' to do, and it has a God-life to it. It is not just a promotional thing."

For more information about Covering Mississippi in Prayer, contact local associational missions directors or Steve Stone, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3310 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 310. E-mail: shell@mbcb.org.



LIVING HISTORY — Over 70 participants crowd into Ebenezer Church, Liberty, on Jan. 3 for the second of 90 Covering Mississippi in Prayer rallies to be held across Mississippi during the first three months of the new year. The church building dates to the 1820s, just a few decades after Baptist arrived in the territory and began to settle the area. (Photo by Tony Martin)



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Dear Legislator ...

The 2011 session of the Mississippi Legislature is revving up to full speed, as proposed legislation moves to committees and will soon be coming up on a series of deadlines. As anyone knows who even casually tracks the annual three-month sessions of the Legislature, many bills are introduced but relatively few make it into law. The complex set of checks and balances both inside the legislative process and in the broader branches of state government have a tendency to winnow the hundreds and hundreds of bills that are filed and pre-filed for each session.

Legislators have to absorb their share of criticism, cynicism, and caricature during their time under the hoary domes of the New Capitol in downtown Jackson. Some of the ridicule showered on them is likely deserved (by some of them, anyway), but a fair amount is not deserved.

They are, after all, our fellow Mississippians. For every citizen who couldn't find their way to either chamber in the Capitol but feels free to regularly slam legislators, there are at least a few of us who realize that most legislators are well-meaning people who must put aside their families, businesses, and community activities for one-quarter of each year to come to Jackson for the session.

That's no small sacrifice, so it would behoove us to occasionally tell them how much we appreciate the effort even as we loudly complain about what we perceive they are doing or not doing.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) has some helpful hints on how to make contact with legislators, how to get a point across without dooming favored legislation, and how to follow up on the progress of important measures:

- **The best communicating is done face-to-face.** Make an appointment and be on time. Bring an outline of the one or two main issues you want to discuss. Be brief, recommend specific solutions, and leave a written summary of your important points.

- **It's fair to ask the legislator for his/her position on the bills in which you are interested.** Don't take it personally if the legislator disagrees. Rather than argue, discuss differences in a pleasant manner.

- **If a personal visit is not possible, write your legislator.** Writing can save a legislator's time (a plus in your favor) and provides a record of your position on proposed legislation. Include your full name, address, and telephone number. The address for legislators while in session is P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018. Individual e-mail addresses can be accessed at www.ls.state.ms.us.

- **Do your research.** Know the bills about which you are writing,

and include any specific information you have such as the bill number and details. Bill status can be attained by calling (601) 359-3719 while the legislature is in session, or by going to www.ls.state.ms.us.

- **Telephone calls do not substitute for personal visits and letters.** When telephoning legislators, however, make efficient use of your time with them. Identify yourself and the bills you are for or against (again, one or two main issues is a good limit). Explain your reasoning and let them know how you want them to vote.

The telephone number for legislators while they are in session is (601) 359-3770. Just as with personal visits and letters, end the conversation by expressing your thanks for their time.

- **Citizens can request to testify before committees about bills they strongly support or oppose.** Find out the name of the appropriate committee chairman and contact him/her as soon as possible. If given the opportunity to testify, get to the point quickly and be prepared to answer any questions legislators may have about your position.

The CAC, a ministry funded by the Mississippi Cooperative Program, stands ready to assist Mississippi Baptists who want to get involved in this grand process of self-governance we enjoy in our state and nation. They can be reached at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. Fax: (601) 292-3350. E-mail: rmccollum@christianaction.com.

Take the time to get involved, or else just be content with whatever comes out of the legislative pipeline. Those are really our only two choices.



Children's Ministry Day scheduled for Feb. 19

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — Children's Ministry Day, a national event sponsored in Mississippi by the state Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), is scheduled for Feb. 19.

The goal of Children's Ministry Day since it began in 2008 has been to get as many children as possible involved in hands-on missions. It is an opportunity for children across Mississippi and North America, where it is sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, to go into their communities for a day of mission action and witnessing.

Through Children's Ministry Day, WMU hopes to help children grow spiritually as they experience hands-on missions and step beyond their comfort zone to minister to others and share their faith.

In 2010, 359 groups participated, involving 5,193 children, 1,693 adults, with 28,214 ministry recipients. In Mississippi, a total of 11 churches participated.

According to Mississippi WMU consultant Robin Keels, the theme for the 2011 Children's Ministry Day is Neighbor to Neighbor. "We want to challenge churches to

plan activities on or around that date where kids can reach out to people in their neighborhood or their church's neighborhood," she said.

"Today's society encourages children to think only of themselves, so participation in an event like Children's Ministry Day helps children to learn about the needs of others and to develop compassionate hearts towards meeting those needs," said Mississippi WMU consultant Tammy Anderson. "As children participate in Children's Ministry Day, they will learn new skills and experience new activities."

"Learning about and doing missions in this way helps children to understand that they can impact their world today and that they do not have to wait until they are adults to make a difference for Christ."

Mississippi churches participating last year included Boulevard Church in Southaven, where Girls in Action (GAs), Royal Ambassadors (RAs), and others involved in children's ministry participated. Fifteen children and 10 adults went to Landmark Nursing Home in Horn Lake where they sang songs with the residents.

Highland church in Natchez had GAs, RAs, and Mission Friends participating in the 2010 Children's Ministry Day. The GAs and RAs had sleepovers on Friday evening and made bookmarks, cards, and cookies.

On Saturday morning, Mission Friends joined them for a pancake breakfast and afterwards went to two different nursing homes. The participants sang and passed out the bookmarks and cards. The cookies were given to the nursing home employees. Seventeen children and 10 adults participated.

The RAs, GAs, and Mission Friends of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg, decorated 60 boxes of Kleenex tissues and made door hangers for nursing home residents. They also made 22 gift bags for the nursing home employees.

After finishing their crafts, the RA group cleaned a yard and scrubbed the floors in the house of a senior adult who attends their church. The GA group went to the nursing home and delivered the items. The Mission Friends baked 12 dozen cookies and delivered them with posters to local fire departments.

The RAs and GAs of Branch Church, Morton, assembled 16

boxes for the Ronald McDonald House in Jackson to serve as welcome kits. The children also toured the facility.

Church leaders are encouraged to create their own projects based on the needs in their community. Project ideas might include block parties, prayerwalking, distributing welcome packets, or neighborhood beautification.

The theme verse for CMD 2011 is Leviticus 19:18c (NIV): "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Each year, WMU creates resources to support Children's Ministry Day. The Children's Ministry Day 2011 Pack contains project ideas, promotional ideas, learning activities, and posters. To order the pack, visit www.wmstore.com or call (800) 968-7301.

There is additional information for participating in CMD 2011, under "Events" at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board web site, www.mbcb.org.

Keels and Anderson can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: rkels@mbcb.org, or landerson@mbcb.org.

Iran Christians arrested during Christmas

WASHINGTON (BP) — Scores of Christians have been detained since Christmas in Tehran, according to a statement protesting the action by Iranian authorities issued by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) on Jan. 7.

"They were informally accused of being 'evangelical missionaries,' although no formal charges have been filed by authorities," USCIRF stated, noting: "Iranian law makes proselytizing of Muslims by non-Muslims illegal, in contravention of international standards."

USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission appointed by the President and the leadership of both political parties in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, according to the group's web site. USCIRF's principal responsibilities are to review the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom internationally and to make policy recommendations to the U.S. President, the U.S. Secretary of State, and the U.S. Congress, the web site states.

Richard Land, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, is a USCIRF commissioner. According to the USCIRF statement: "Reports indicate that as many as 70 Christians have been detained over the past two weeks. Some individuals have since been released, although it is unclear how many remain in detention. While most of those detained are Evangelical Christians, members of Iran's Armenian Christian community also have been detained."

Bryant Wright, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., noted in a Jan. 7 statement: "This

Christmas season, while we were celebrating the birth of our Savior in relative peace, many of our brothers and sisters in other countries have lost their lives or been put in prison because they bear His Name.

"The bombing of the church in Egypt, the events in Iraq, Pakistan, Nigeria, and the recent wave of arrests in Iran grieve our hearts," Wright continued. "These followers of our Lord have been called upon to suffer for the Name of Jesus. We pray for them and their families."

"We also call upon the respective governments to take all steps necessary to preserve the fundamental human rights of their citizens to worship our Lord according to the dictates of their own hearts without fear of reprisal or persecution."

Wright added, "We especially pray for the people of Southern Sudan as they vote on independence on Sunday, Jan. 9." The outcome of that referendum was not known at press deadline.

USCIRF chair Leonard Leo, concerning the detentions in Iran, was quoted in the commission's statement as noting: "What's most troubling about this wave of detentions is the fact that Iran is continuing its recent trend of targeting Evangelical Christians, which they've been doing for years, and also leaders from the recognized and protected Armenian Christian community."

"USCIRF calls on Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release those Christians who have been detained and urges the U.S. government and international community to condemn these detentions and demand the detainees' release," Leo said.

The governor of Tehran, Mortaza Tamaddon, "called the detained Christians 'deviant' and 'corrupt' and vowed to identify and detain more in the days ahead," USCIRF reported. "In a statement Tuesday, Tamaddon likened the detained Christians to the Taliban. It is unclear what Tamaddon meant by his analogy."

In its 2010 annual report, USCIRF noted that even recognized, non-Muslim religious minorities in Iran — Jews,

Armenian and Assyrian Christians, and Zoroastrians — protected under the Iranian constitution faced increasing discrimination and repression.

"While the constitution of Iran formally recognizes Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians as protected religious minorities who may worship freely, members of these groups are subject to legal and other forms of discrimination, particularly in education, government jobs and services, and the armed services," USCIRF stated.

The Dec. 25 sweep by Iranian authorities targeted Muslim-background people who have accepted Christ and Christians accused of evangelizing Muslims, which can carry the death penalty under Iranian law.

Police forced their way into homes in the early morning hours of Christmas Day while the families were asleep in Tehran and other cities, according to news reports. They searched the homes for Bibles and Christian literature, CDs, and photos. Personal computers and documents also reportedly were confiscated.

More arrests were expected, according to state media reports quoting Tehran's governor.

Tamaddon reportedly called evangelical Christian activity in Iran a "cultural invasion of the enemy," according to The Wall Street Journal.

"Just like the Taliban, who have inserted themselves into Islam like a parasite, [evangelicals] have crafted a movement in the name of Christianity," Tamaddon said, according to The Journal, which was quoting Iran's state media outlet, IRNA.

While about one percent of Iran's population is Christian, sanctioned groups like Armenians and Catholics generally are allowed to worship in peace. The Journal said. However, Iran outlaws Persian-language Bibles and preaching, and Muslims are not allowed to attend Christian services.

Among those arrested, according to a source with contacts in Iran, two couples were separated from their babies, and there has been no contact with eight of those who were arrested.

Looking back

10 years ago

The sanctuary and education building of First Church, Carriere, burn to the ground Saturday evening, Dec. 30. The church's fellowship hall and activities building were spared major damage.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is called to Vaiden after a tornado destroys several sections of the community. Mississippi Baptists handled food services, providing between 1,600 — 1,800 hot meals per day for tornado victims and response personnel.

30 years ago

C. E. Autrey, director of the Division of Evangelism of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, says that the denomination should not oppose integration but should let it take its due course.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JANUARY 13, 2011

VOL. 135

No. 2



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004
© 2005

YXOA CH AOAAM ZET
CREC ELPACR HK
CRAA; ETG HK RXZ
CREC CEPACR EJEM
CRM YHHGL ELP CRAZ
THC EYEXT.

VNPA LXI: CRXFCM

Clue: Y = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Six: Four

PRAYER POINT - MOVING FORWARD IN YOUR PRAYER LIFE

Hebrews chapter 12 is loaded with encouragement and inspiration. While not necessarily thought of as a prayer passage, it is actually a reservoir of great prayer pointers.

It begins with a legacy. For some people and in some ways legacy has become a bad word. In fact, for some people anything that is older than the 24-hour news cycle is not worth remembering and certainly not worth repeating. In Hebrews chapter 12, it all begins based on the Hall of Faith of the great men and women who have gone on before us. It certainly would be worth our time to stop and walk through those verses and just reflect on the great men and women of faith who forged the foundation upon which we stand.

They were men and women just like us with challenges in their lives, uncertainties in their futures, and a great desire to follow God. Abraham, Moses, prophets, and warriors trusted God and kept moving forward. As each morning thousands of people across our state join for a time of meeting with God, it must never be forgotten that with- out faith it is impossible to please Him. So we come to God trusting Him regardless of our circumstances and regardless of how we may feel. We trust that He cares for us and that He is capable beyond our wildest dreams to meet the needs in our lives and to work on our behalf. We have an enormous legacy that demonstrates God's goodness and inspires us for today.

The second thing that you run into might be best characterized by the word, "leave." The writer pictured a runner and he said, "To lay aside every weight and the sin that



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Prayer Points

so easily can trip us up." At some time or other, virtually every one of us has trouble with moving forward because we won't let go. We won't leave behind those things that weigh us down. The other day I heard someone say that in the latter days of Frank Sinatra's life he had Sicilian Alzheimer's disease. When asked what that was, he said the great Italian singer forgot everything but grudges. How sad, but how common is that disease among us? I am not sure where that disease would rank among the maladies that would drain our spirits and leave us crippled as we try to move forward. I think that it would be rated fairly high. Lay aside those things that have worried you and worked you down so that you can move forward.

The other thing that the writer tells us to leave behind is the sin that so easily trips us up. When you come before God in prayer, have you ever thought about how many times He brings your memory to that one sin that seems to have such a grip on you? You ask for forgiveness and you want victory and then in short order it seems to conquer you again. Allow God to

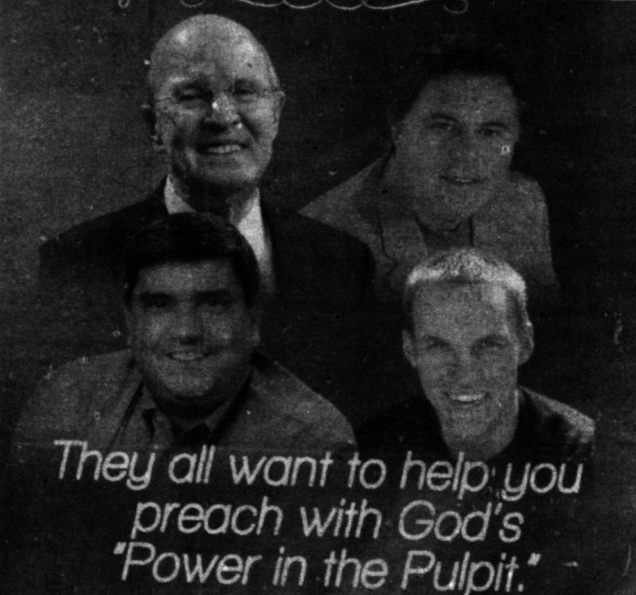
come and help you again and by the power of the living Christ overcome the sin that keeps causing you to stumble. What sin is that? Well, for one person it may be one thing and for someone else quite another. You may have an addiction and only God can rescue and restore you. You may have an attitude that constantly keeps you from being the servant that the Lord wants you to be with the testimony that He

wants you share. For others it may be an action that keeps being a part of your life and you realize that only God can help you to overcome it. Leave those things behind.

Finally as you pray, look. That is what the writer of the Scripture says, "Look unto Jesus." He is not only the One where we find faith, but we look to Him for direction for every step of the way. Keep your eyes fixed on Him as you attempt great things and as you need to overcome the obstacles that may surround you. As you pray each morning for Covering Mississippi in Prayer, make it the passion of your heart not just to tell God what you need but to look to Him, the one who rules, reigns, loves, and empowers. He alone can reshape your day and guide you to great achievements as you live for Him. Together we will look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

What do these four men have in common?



They all want to help you preach with God's "Power in the Pulpit."

March 3-4, 2011
at North Metro First Baptist Church,
Lawrenceville, Georgia

POWER PULPIT

Jerry Vines wrote it.
Jim Shaddix revised it.
David Allen and David Platt read it and taught it.

For more information and online registration, visit:
www.jerryvines.com

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 13, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Witnessing Through MEDIA AWARDS INFO

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: May 6-7, 2011

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 6, 6-9 p.m.
Workshops on Saturday, May 7, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

(Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops - www.mhcb.org)

WHERE: Colonial Heights Baptist Church
444 Northpark Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

DIVISION I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

DIVISION II

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

A. VIDEO

1. Church Musicals
2. Feature Presentation (30-60 minutes)
3. Magazine
4. Commercial
5. Promotional (stewardship, building campaign, etc.)
6. Music Video
7. Worship Service (broadcast and nonbroadcast)

B. AUDIO

1. Radio Program
2. Commercial
3. Special Project

C. WEB SITE

D. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY

ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include: An entry form, description and fee. Cost: \$15 fee per entry (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit program in the following formats:
• Video - DVD, Beta SP, Mini-DV
• Web site - submit address on entry form
• Radio - CD
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
• Name of Local Church
• Title of Entry
• Category Name
• Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 1, 2011.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: CALL 601-292-3378 OR

CHECK WEB SITE FOR ENTRY FORM AT www.mhcb.org

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than March 4, 2011, 4:45 p.m.

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES:

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
MBCB
515 Mississippi Street
Jackson MS 39201-1702

Experience an intense and fun four-day focus on missions with girls from all over the world who have a similar heart for God and missions!

Personally interact with missionaries.

Participate in a blume-Disney cultural learning experience in the EPCOT theme park.



July 13-16, 2011
Orlando, FL

7th grade girls - college age young women

For more info contact MS WMU
• Karen Redditt - 601-292-3316
kredditt@mbcb.org
• Robin Keels - 601-292-3322
rkeels@mbcb.org
National Web site for blume:
www.blumeforgirls.com

2011 CAMP GARAYWA

Register Now! \$155 per camper

Camp is an incredible place where campers can meet new friends, explore other cultures, interact with missionaries, and experience the great outdoors. We learn more about God and His purpose for our lives. Garaywa is owned and operated by MS WMU and is located in Clinton, Miss.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 6-10	Missions Camp for Girls
June 13-17	Missions Camp for Girls
June 20-24	Missions Camp for Girls
June 27-July 1	Missions Camp for Girls/Students
July 4-8	Missions Camp for Girls/Students
July 11-15	Missions Camp for Girls
July 18-22	Missions Camp for Girls
July 25-29	Missions Camp for Girls

GIRLS are those having completed grades 3-6
STUDENTS are those having completed grades 7-12.

Register online:
Garaywa.org. For more information: 601-292-3316.

Mother/Daughter Garaywa Overnight for mothers and daughters (grades 1st-6th)

- Meet missionaries
- Worship
- Campfire
- Crafts
- Recreation

April 1-2

For more info: Call MS WMU, 601-292-3316 or e-mail kredditt@mbcb.org

MS POSITIONS

AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH IN Tupelo, MS is currently accepting resumes for the position of part-time Minister of Music. Resumes can be sent to 1138 City Rd. 931; Tupelo, MS 38804 or emailed to jhenry@auburnbaptistchurch.org. The churches phone number is (662)842-5638.

PIKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN Clinton, MS is searching for a part-time bi-vocational youth minister. Please send resumes to pineview-bc@bellsouth.net, or you can fax to 601-924-8378. If you have any questions, please call 601-924-7677.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OCEAN Spring, MS is seeking to fill the full-time position of Student and Adult Discipleship Minister. Send resumes or inquiries to fbccos@fbccos.org, or mail to First Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Committee, 602 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564. The Church phone number is call 228-875-4532

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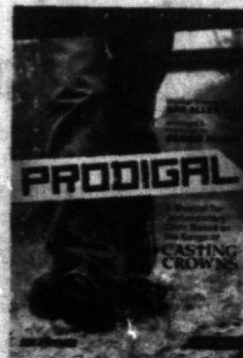
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Associational & Church Missions Leadership Training

Crossgates BC, Brandon
Friday and Saturday
August 12-13

For more information about this event, contact Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, or go online to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Web site (www.mbc.org) for a schedule and conference list. Search under the event title or calendar date.

Conferences for associational WMU leaders, church missions leaders and women's ministry leaders will be offered on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. General missions/ministry conferences will be offered for all participants.

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Meridian, February 12

Highland BC
3400 27th St.
8 a.m. registration
12:45 Dismissal

Madison, March 12

Ridgecrest BC
7469 Old Canton Road
8 a.m. registration
12:45 Dismissal

Preregistration Required Cost \$20 per conferee

Center directors accompanying teachers - FREE
Pastors and children's ministers accompanying teachers - FREE

Mail number of reservations, center's name, director's name, address, sponsoring church's name, and phone number with check, payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

For more info: Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 287, or dhicks@mbcb.org.



February 25-26, Broadmoor BC, Madison

THE CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

is a place for every Christ-following artist and teacher - no matter what the size or style of your church - to come to sharpen or learn new skills to enhance your worship services. It is designed for youth grades 6-12 and adults.



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1 THESSALONIANS 5:17



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For All Pastors, VBS Directors, and VBS Leaders
VBS Materials will be on display and available to purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources.

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9 a.m.-noon
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February 8, 2011
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Longview Heights BC

4501 Goodman Road
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2011 CLM Retreat March 24-26, 2011

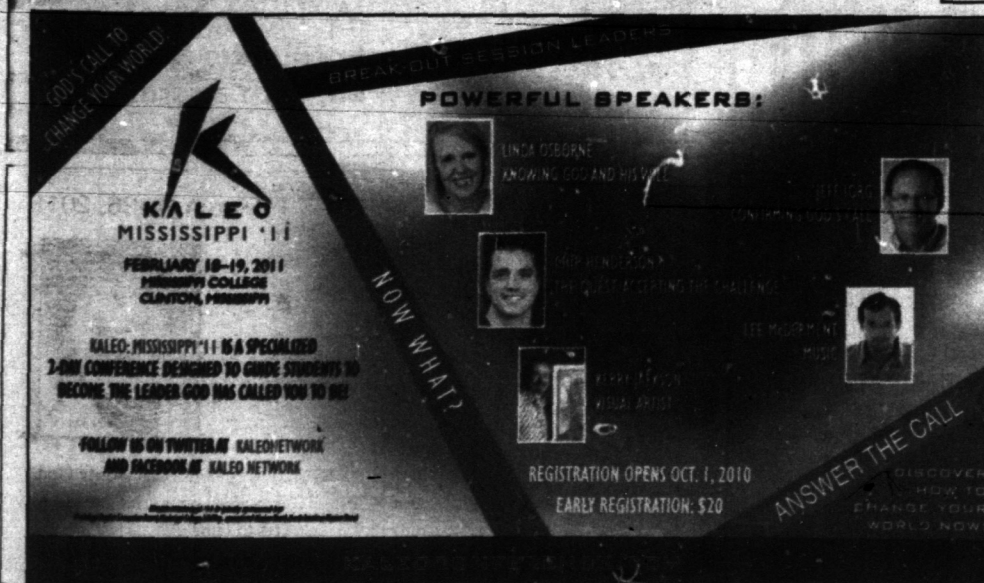
"Ministry From the Heart
in Prayer for Mississippi"

Guest Speaker

TERRI BLACKSTOCK has had 25 years of success as a novelist. She makes her home in Mississippi, where she and her husband, Ken, are enjoying their empty nest after raising three children.

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Communication Services Department: 601-292-3378 or jchen@mbcb.org



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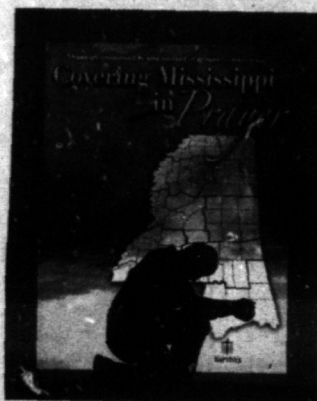
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Morrison Heights BC
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"These all continued in one accord in prayer..." Acts 1:14 KJV

Thursday, January 13

- West Point - 11 a.m.
- Columbus - 2 p.m.
- Starkville - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18

- Cleveland - 10 a.m.
- Indianola - noon
- Greenwood - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19

- Mendenhall - 9 a.m.
- Monticello - 11 a.m.
- Tylertown - 2 p.m.
- Columbia - 4 p.m.

Prayer request focus for participants at rallies and for yourself.

1. SELF

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me..." Psalm 66:18

2. SERVANTS

"Exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." 1 Timothy 2:1-2

3. SOULS

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word..." John 17:20

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" Matthew 23:37



7th Annual SENIOR ADULT EVANGELISM RALLY Tuesday, February 1, 2011 Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian

Special Guests:

Mickey Bounds, Cajun Pastor from Delhi, La.
Gary Mayfield, Mississippi College, Professor
Tom Crocker, LifeWay Consultant, Nashville
Music: Larry Black, Richland
Preacher: Claude King, Nashville

For more information:

E-mail gshows@mbcb.org,
or dbrashier@mbcb.org

Call 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3373.

Children's Ministry Day 2011



Neighbor-to-Neighbor

For more info, contact tanderson@mbcb.org or 601-292-3323

The 2011 CMD theme is "Neighbor to Neighbor." On February 19, 2011, children all over the USA and some countries will be involved in hands-on projects that impact their communities with the love of Christ. National WMU has created a Children's Ministry Day 2011 Pack (8446250-1186-3 or W117106 for \$11.99) to assist you in your planning. The pack includes a planning guide with project ideas and learning activities and promotional posters. We highly recommend this pack!

3-6-95

MISS ERIN DEMARS

Parents: Guy & Cindy
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

3-11-00

MISS EMMA GRACE

ROBERTS
Parents: Marty & Suzanne
European Peoples

3-11-93

MISS HANNA C.

Parents: J. & M.
Restricted

3-13-05

MR. CHARLIE S.

Parents: J & C
Restricted

3-17-03

MISS EMMA GRACE EPPS

Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
American Peoples

3-31-93

MISS GRACE HOLYFIELD

Parents: Michael & Patsy
European Peoples



BAPTISTS

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MK with a card!**

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK
Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

Appeals court ruling may result in raunchier broadcasts

LOS ANGELES (BP)—A television watchdog group is warning that even more nudity could be in the future for over-the-air television after an appeals court tossed out a \$1.2 million fine against television network ABC for a 2003 prime-time episode of the now-cancelled drama NYPD Blue that included a scene with a naked woman.

It is the second major legal blow in recent months to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) broadcast indecency policy — and some would say another blow to families. The Supreme Court eventually may decide the issue in what could be a landmark case.

In 2003, ABC aired an episode of NYPD Blue that showed actress Charlotte Ross preparing to shower. By the court's own count, the scene in question lasted approximately seven seconds. After receiving complaints, the FCC fined ABC \$1.2 million, which amounted to \$27,500 for all 44 stations in the Central and Mountain time zones that aired the episode at 9 p.m. Stations in Eastern and Pacific time zones that aired it at 10 p.m. — when the standards are not in effect — were not included in the fine. ABC filed suit, and a unanimous three-judge panel for the

U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals tossed out the fine in a Jan. 4 order, saying it was bound by a ruling of the same circuit last year pertaining to profanity.

In that earlier case, Fox v. FCC, a different three-judge panel ruled the FCC's indecency policy unconstitutional, saying it was "vague" and "effectively chills speech."

"Indeed, there is no significant distinction between this case and Fox," the Second Circuit panel wrote in its Jan. 4 nine-page order. "[The Second Circuit's earlier] deter-

mination that the FCC's indecency policy is unconstitutionally vague binds this panel."

Pro-family groups disagreed that there was no distinction, noting that the Fox case began with instances of unscripted profanity on live TV while the NYPD Blue case involved scripted material that was pre-recorded.

Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council (PTC), called children and families the real victims. "This ruling will only serve to embolden the networks to air even more graphic material," he said.

Dan Isett, director of public policy for the Parents Television Council, said the networks cannot be trusted to police themselves.

"The broadcast networks have tried to make the case that they don't have any real desire to air more indecent material, but their actions speak otherwise," Isett told Baptist Press. "They've spent literally millions of dollars in legal fees alone pursuing several different lawsuits to try to get rid of broadcast decency standards. When you couple that with the

rating is significant because televisions equipped with V-chip technology rely on the ratings system in order to block content parents don't want their children to see, yet the ratings system itself has come under question.

A 2007 Parents Television Council study of 546 hours of primetime broadcast programming found that 67% of the time, programs contained offensive programming without the proper content label. The PTC has called it a "sham" system.

Southern Baptists see increasing numbers in U.S. House, Senate

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — At least 10 Southern Baptists were sworn in for the first time Jan. 5 as members of the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, two members of Southern Baptist churches were sworn in to start their first terms in the U.S. Senate.

Roy Blunt of Missouri, a member of First Church, Branson, and John Boozman of Arkansas, a member of First Church, Rogers, came to the Senate after serving in the House for seven and five terms, respectively.

All are Republicans. The Southern Baptists new to the House are part of the majority achieved by the GOP in the November election. The Republicans hold a 242-193 advantage in the House to begin the 112th Congress. In

the Senate, the Democratic caucus has a 53-47 edge.

From Mississippi, Alan Nunnelee, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, was sworn in as the new Congressman from the First District. He defeated Democrat Travis Childers, a member of East Booneville Church, Booneville.

Gregg Harper of Brandon, Mississippi's Third District Congressman and a member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, was sworn in for a second two-year term. Second District Congressman Bennie Thompson of Bolton is Methodist, while Fourth District freshman Congressman Steven Palazzo of Biloxi is Catholic.

In the U.S. Senate, Thad Cochran of Byram is a member of Northminster Church,

Jackson, and Roger Wicker of Fifth District, Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City.

In addition to Nunnelee, new House members who have been confirmed to be members of Southern Baptist churches include:

Arkansas: Rick Crawford, First District, Nettleton Church, Jonesboro; Tim Griffin, Second District, Immanuel Church, Little Rock; Steve Womack, Third District, Cross Church Pinnacle Hills, Rogers.

Florida: Steve Southerland, Second District, Northstar Church, Panama City; Daniel Webster, Eighth District, First Church of Central Florida, Orlando.

Georgia: Austin Scott, Eighth District, First Church, Tifton.

Oklahoma: James Lankford, Fifth District, Quail Springs Church, Oklahoma City.

South Carolina: Jeff Duncan, Third District, First Church, Clinton.

Texas: Bill Flores, 17th District, Central Church, Bryan.

In addition, Tom Graves, a Republican representing the Ninth District of Georgia, is serving his first full term in the House. He won a special election in June 2010 to replace Nathan Deal, who won that state's gubernatorial race last November. Graves is a member of Belmont Church in Calhoun, Ga. Steve Pearce, a Republican, is returning to the House to represent the Second District of New Mexico after two years away. Pearce is a member of Taylor Memorial Church in Hobbs, N.M.

In addition to Cochran and Wicker, other Southern Baptists in the Senate are Republicans Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

In addition to Harper, members of Southern Baptist churches re-elected to their House seats in November include Spencer Bachus, R-Ala.; Trent Franks, R-Ariz.; Vern Buchanan, R-Fla.; Paul Broun, R-Ga.; Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga.; Harold Rogers, R-Ky.; Rodney Alexander, R-La.; John Fleming, R-La.; Sam Graves, R-Mo.; Heath Shuler, D-N.C.; Frank Lucas, R-Okl.; Mike Conaway, R-Texas; Louie Gohmert, R-Texas; Al Green, D-Texas; Randy Neugebauer, R-Texas, and Randy Forbes, R-Va.

increasing amounts of foul language and sexual content and violent content, I don't think they're very credible.

"I don't know if it will lead to more graphic content, but we do know that if this ruling is allowed to stand as-is that there will be no prohibition or any rule whatsoever to ensure that there is not more graphic content."

The NYPD Blue episode in question was rated TV-14, and not TV-MA, a more strict rating. TV-14 means that it "contains some material that many parents would find unsuitable for children under 14 years of age," according to the ratings' definition.

The television studios rate their own programs.

The episode's rating is significant because televisions equipped with V-chip technology rely on the ratings system in order to block content parents don't want their children to see, yet the ratings system itself has come under question.

A 2007 Parents Television Council study of 546 hours of primetime broadcast programming found that 67% of the time, programs contained offensive programming without the proper content label. The PTC has called it a "sham" system.

Summer camp made all the difference in woman's life

By Erica Hagar
Correspondent

The year was 1947, Camp Garaywa's first summer to host missions camp, when Elaine Cade boarded a bus with four other girls from Unity Church in West to attend a week of camp in Clinton. She had no idea that her life was about to change.

Her experience that week was so momentous, in fact, that Cade recently spearheaded a fundraising effort at Unity Church to provide scholarships for campers to attend Garaywa this summer.

"Garaywa was the most wonderful thing that had happened to me up to that point," she recalled. "We rode into Clinton on a bus and someone picked us up at Mississippi College and carried us out to camp. It was the first time any of us had ever been away from home."

She particularly remembers having Bible study in her cabin as well as beginning each day with morning vespers and ending each day with evening vespers.

"It was a learning experience in the spiritual sense because up until the time I went to camp, I was so limited in what I knew about missions. I learned so much about mission work and what God was up to all over the world that week," Cade said.

That particular week, a missionary from Brazil was there sharing her experiences with the girls. She introduced the campers to pen pals from Brazil, and Abigail became Cade's Brazilian writing partner.

"I still have her picture. We corresponded for a couple of years," she said.

Cade was a ninth grader when she first attended Garaywa and had just made a profession of faith the year before.

"I remember Dr. and Mrs. Tyler from Blue Mountain College (BMC) were counselors there. They seemingly took a special interest in me and what lay ahead for my future. They saw something in me that I didn't see in myself.

"Things were happening in my life really fast, and for some reason the Tylers took time to pour into me that week. The call came through very clear after that that God was calling me into home missions," Cade said.

Wilfred Charles Tyler, then a Bible professor at Baptist-affiliated BMC, suggested the initials of the three Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) youth organizations — Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors, and Young Women's Auxiliary — be combined into one name to give Garaywa its name.

He gave the suggestion to a boy in his church, however, and Harold Newcomb was given credit for the original naming of the camp.

The Tylers, who together served on faculty more than 50 years at BMC, began to talk with Cade about going to college, something Cade saw as "impossible."

"I wasn't thinking about college and my family could not have afforded to send me to college even if I was. I was a little country girl from a large family with no finances to provide for things like this," she said.

A few months after she had been home from her week at Garaywa, her mom got a visit from Dr. Tyler, informing her that he had made arrangements for Cade to receive a full scholarship to BMC.

"He told her that he could see the Lord was doing something special in my life. It was quite meaningful. That was one of the most touching, unrealistic things that ever happened to me. That was a special blessing that would not have happened if I had not been at Garaywa at the particular time Dr. Tyler was down there," she recalled.

Tyler went on to become the president of BMC in 1960 and passed away in 1965 while in office. His wife Frances held four degrees including a PhD, which she earned virtually on the eve of her 70th birthday.



Elaine Cade, then



Elaine Cade, present day



'CABIN MOMS' — Among the charter 1947 staffers at Camp Garaywa in Clinton was Margaret Summers (third from left), who came to be influential in the spiritual development of Elaine Cade. (Special photos)

"This is a wonderful family who have a rich and enduring legacy at Blue Mountain College. Two of their great-granddaughters are currently students here," said Betty Coward, president of EMC.

One of those, Anna Tyler, has served as both a cabin leader and a unit leader at Garaywa during her time at BMC.

Because of how her encounter with them radically changed Cade's life, she is now promoting Garaywa and the need for missions camp to those with whom she comes in contact, even leading Unity Church — still her church family — to collect funds for scholarships for girls who cannot afford to attend camp on their own.

"Garaywa really enables girls to look inside themselves at a greater depth. At that age, they are going through a lot of emotional things. They want to be cool with their friends and peers, but the quiet time that Garaywa offers of listening and observing what God is up to sets them on the right path.

"It's indescribable. It's all about getting a better understanding of yourself and what you're really put here to do," she said.

Cade had the opportunity to return to Garaywa last year for a training conference. While many of the buildings have been upgraded and given a new look, she had the same feeling she had when she came as a camper 64 years ago.

"It was just good to be back at camp and see how God's hand is still on Garaywa," she said.

She chuckled as she recalled some of the specific memories

she has from that summer: driving through the country to get there, not having air conditioning, pulling moss out of the trees, having a talent show at the end of the week, forgetting to take her bed linens home with her at the end of the week, and her cabin leader, a twin named Margaret Summers from Sumner.

"It was so much fun getting to meet girls from other parts of the state. I think the awareness of missions was the greatest blessing I learned from that experience and I want to pass that along to young girls now.

I appreciate Garaywa. My experience there helped me as I grew older and I still have flashbacks of great memories from there."

Registration for camps to be held this summer at Garaywa is now open. For more information and to register, visit garaywa.org or call (601) 924-7034.

Hagar is missions impact correspondent for the Mission Strategy Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Camp Garaywa is now known as Garaywa Camp and Conference Center.



Abigail

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE A Lifestyle of Service

Matthew 25:14-46, Mark 10:35-45

By Becky Brown

Little Miss Maley Grace invited me to a tea party last week. Of course I accepted the invitation. How could anyone resist those blue eyes? As soon as I sat down cross-legged on the floor, I realized that this was going to be a memorable event. She tipped her little teapot over and poured us out one tasty M&M® into every tiny teacup on the table. Each cup held just one. This was a chocolate tea party. She made all the sound effects while she poured and then showed me how to make sippy noises as we drank. Last night she cooked plastic French fries for me in her new plastic oven. Yum. She is such a sweet little servant. I would love to be able to say that she picked up such servant leanings from me

because I want to walk her all the way to Jesus.

Jesus said of Himself in Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." Jesus modeled a lifestyle of service. The Greek word for "serve" in this verse is "deacon" and it means to raise dust by moving quickly to accomplish the errand. In both the Old Testament and the New, the word for servant implies one who is a slave by choice who serves a master faithfully and willingly for life and who never desires to depart from service. A bondservant is fastened like glue to his Master.

Folks are remembered for their famous last words. Jesus would be remembered for many things but certainly for His famous last wordless act



Brown

of washing feet. This was a picture His disciples would never forget. In last week's lesson, we were reminded of the beauty and the example of His humility. From this unit of study, we should take away the fact that servanthood flows from

humility just as fellowship flows from community. God does not require service for salvation but He expects a salvation-er who serves.

Scripture pages are filled with servants. Moses was called the servant and friend of God. Joshua was called the servant of Moses. Peter's mother-in-law served her guests. Martha is remembered for her apron and dish towel and for fussing at her sister Mary for sitting around at the feet of Jesus while she completed all the kitchen duties alone. The first called church staff members were deacons who were chosen to serve the quickly growing

early church family. Hebrews 11 records the names of those in "The Hall of Faith-ers" who served God in the generations before the cross. I believe that list is still being maintained and that names are being added as service continues for Heaven's sake. If they are the "before the cross" people, then that means we are the "after the cross" people. May we all start well, continue well and finish well. College football has its Heisman trophy winners. God is looking for Hisman and Hiswoman candidates. Jesus presented the first award to the good and faithful servants.

Selfish and service do not rhyme. Selfish stinks. Selfless service exudes the sweet aroma of Christ. In John 12, Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointed the feet of Jesus with spikenard, a very costly and pungent spice from India. As she wiped His feet with her own hair, the house was filled with the fragrance. I have always wondered if the Roman soldier who ham-

mered the nails into the hands and feet of Jesus was able to smell the spikenard.

So, how's your serve? Jesus gave another powerful glimpse into how He and His Father feel about service in Matthew 25. First we read the parable of the master and his three servants. All three were given an equal opportunity to do their best. Two were called good and faithful and were invited to enter into the joy of their master. One was called wicked and lazy and assigned to outer darkness, apart from the joy of his master. Next we are presented with the opportunity to love and serve the unlovely: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. Jesus said that when we serve the least of these, we are serving Him. Finally, be reminded that true service is rendered without recognition. God is watching to see if we have a faith that works.

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE Building a Culture of Life

2 Kings 22:11-13; 23:1-3, 10, 24-25

By Dr. W. Wayne VanHorn

This Sunday is celebrated as "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday in the SBC and our lesson is about renewing culture in line with God's ways, ways that value life. Judah in the 7th century B.C. had issues with the sanctity of human life just as we do in 21st century America. One major difference is that in Judah, religion was embedded in politics, while in America we have all but separated religion from politics. In Judah, the king served not only as the political leader, but also as the religious leader. Whatever the king chose to do became a matter for others to follow. When King Manasseh sacrificed his son to the false god Molech, he devalued human life, promoted idolatry, and set Judah on an irrevocable course toward judgment.

This week's lesson however focuses on the reign of Manasseh's grandson, Josiah, the last king of whom it was written, "he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord" (2 Kings 22:2; NIV). Josiah initiated a repair of the temple that led to the discovery of an ancient religious law book, perhaps Deuteronomy (2 Kings 22:8). When the book was read to Josiah, he tore his clothes in an act of humility, and then sent his religious advisors to inquire of the Lord what they should do to reverse the wrongs done by their ancestors.

Josiah knew revival was in order and on a scale to match the magnitude of the depravity of his father and grandfather, who both did evil in the Lord's eyes. So he assembled "all the elders" (2 Kings 23:1),



VanHorn

and "all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem" and "all the people from the youngest to the oldest" (2 Kings 23:2; NIV) at the temple. The entire crowd, including the king, listened as the ancient book was read. King Josiah knew he had to reverse the culture of death inaugurated by his grandfather Manasseh and continued by his father Amon. He made a "covenant in the presence of the Lord" to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul" (2 Kings 23:3; NIV). The best way to restore the nation to godliness was for King Josiah to take the first steps.

All the remnants of Baal worship were carried out of the city and burned in the Kidron valley. The ashes were then taken to Bethel in fulfillment of an earlier prophecy (see 1

Kings 13:2-3). He did away with all idolatrous priests. Josiah's religious reforms included the desecration of Topheth, a place for human sacrifice in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, or Gehenna (2 Kings 23:10). No longer could anyone sacrifice his son or daughter in fire to the false god Molech. By destroying the infrastructure of the culture of death, Josiah prepared the way for the revival of the culture of life.

Josiah's reform extended well into the regions north of Jerusalem. Those who practiced death were put to death. In Josiah's 18th year, 622 B.C., he led an observance of Passover (2 Kings 23:23). This service marked a new beginning for God's people. Just as the first Passover freed them from Egyptian bondage, so this Passover freed them from the culture of death encouraged by evil Manasseh.

Josiah got rid of "the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things" in Jerusalem and Judah (2 Kings 23:24; NIV). Renewing a cul-

ture of life that valued the sanctity of human life meant clearing out any and all vestiges of idolatry. The people needed to center their lives on the One True God. He alone could enable them to value life and to despise child sacrifice. Josiah did all this "to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book" that had been discovered in the temple of the Lord.

Josiah was so devoted to the Lord, the inspired writer of 2 Kings indicated that no king before or after Josiah, "turned to the Lord as he did, with his whole heart, his whole soul, and his whole might" (2 Kings 23:25; NIV). Josiah based his personal devotion and the national revival on the Law of Moses. As a result of the king's courageous stand, young children did not have to face the fires of Molech in the Valley of Gehenna any more. Life trumped death.

Van Horn is Dean of Christian Studies and the Arts at Mississippi College.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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Page: Lean on God, discover sufficiency of His grace

NASHVILLE, Tn. (BP) — As Southern Baptist churches head into a time of prayer and repentance in January, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee President Frank Page says he is praying that believers will learn the sufficiency of God's grace just as the Apostle Paul learned when he was battling his undefined thorn in the flesh.

"The way to the throne room is through the thorn room," Page said Jan. 7 during a chapel service at the SBC Building in downtown Nashville, quoting former Southwestern Seminary professor J.W. MacGorman.

"That is what I believe we need to learn today, that God has a grand plan but that which He wants to teach us daily may not come from a cessation of difficulty or a removal of difficulty or thorns. It may, and often does, come from a learning of the beauty of the presence of the Lord through the difficulties of life."

The Great Commission Resurgence Task Force's 2010 report adopted by SBC messengers urges churches to hold a solemn assembly, and SBC President Bryant Wright and SBC entity presidents have asked churches to seek God in prayer and repentance during a time of solemn assembly on at least one day in January.

Preaching from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Page said he wants Southern Baptists facing difficulties in life to have the reaction of Paul who, after God refused to take away his

thorn, was told by the Lord, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Paul then wrote: "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me... For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Christians, Page said, talk about prayer a "great deal" but rarely put it into practice, leading to weak prayer lives. Page said his prayer is that through the solemn assemblies, prayer will be used "with power, with passion, with the dependency upon the... all-sufficient grace of God."

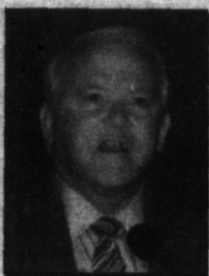
"I pray that as Southern Baptists go through a time of praying and solemn assembly, that they will learn the sufficiency of God's grace. Why? As Paul said, 'So that Christ's

power might rest on me.'" The passage, Page said, teaches at least three points:

- The universality of difficulty. "Many of you have been a pastor or in the ministry in some way," Page said. "You know how many people come up to you and ask, 'Why am I going through this? Why am I suffering this way?'"

All of us have a thorn. All of us struggle in life. All of us have afflictions. They are real."

- The natural reaction of the believer. Paul's first reaction to his thorn, Page noted, was to pray. "We all want to know, 'God, why?' but at least we're talking to the right person and going to the right source. 'God, please help me. Lord, explain this, and if you won't explain it, hold my hand as I walk through it.'"



Page

- The beautiful provisions of our Lord. "In prayer, Paul received a beautiful message [but] not the one he wanted," Page said. "He wanted this thorn in the flesh — this stake in his heart — to be removed, but that is not what God gave him... Sometimes [God] doesn't answer our prayers the way we wish or even the way we ask, but as a lovingly heavenly Father He does what is best for us."

Paul "didn't get what He asked, but He got something better," Page said.

"In this passage, we see something of the nature of God, and God is a loving heavenly

Father," Page said. "He said, 'I know what you need and I want to help you though this but as I help you through this I am going to show you something of Myself and in the showing of Myself, you're going to come out of it wiser, richer, better.'"

"It's time for Southern Baptists to realize that our God wants to show them something better, something deeper," Page said. "We ask for a lot of things from our Lord, but I am convinced it's time to do what Paul did and say, 'I am weak. God, You are just going to have to show me what You want to show me.'"

JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. **Linwood Church, Union**, has published a book, *History of Linwood Baptist Church, 1881-2008*. The book was completed in celebration of the construction of their new church building and sanctuary. To acquire a copy, call Charlotte Nicholson at (601) 656-4090 or mail request to Linwood Baptist Church, 11908 Road 325, Union, MS 39365.
2. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting a community singing Jan. 15, 6 p.m., featuring the Almost Famous Crains.
3. **The Women on Mission of Madden Church, Madden**, assembled fruit baskets in December. Shown are the participants.
4. **Fair River Church, Brookhaven**, was able to pay off their \$2 million sanctuary in three years. Shown are David Fortenberry, Todd McDaniel, and Brandon Sorrell, kneeling, with church members.



COLLEGE NEWS

1. Lee Royce, president of Mississippi College, has been named to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. His election becomes official on Feb. 2 at the organization's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

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Jan 15-Jackson 11:30 Chimneyville (Lunch \$12)	Philadelphia Jan 22-Clinton Jan 24-Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Picayune, Jan 25-Hammond, McComb, Natchez, Jan 26-Brookhaven	Feb 15-Madison Feb 16-Forest, Newton Feb 17-Meridian, Laurel Feb 18-Bay Springs, Magee.
Jan 18-Boyle/Cleveland Greenwood. Jan 19- Grenada, Oxford Jan 20-Tupelo, Columbus, Starkville. Jan 21-Louisville,	Feb 11- Brandon Feb 12-Crystal Springs Feb 14-Ridgeland	Meetings available in any church or town where 10 or more are interested.

Two Great Christian Dinner Shows at Ms. Ag and Forestry Museum

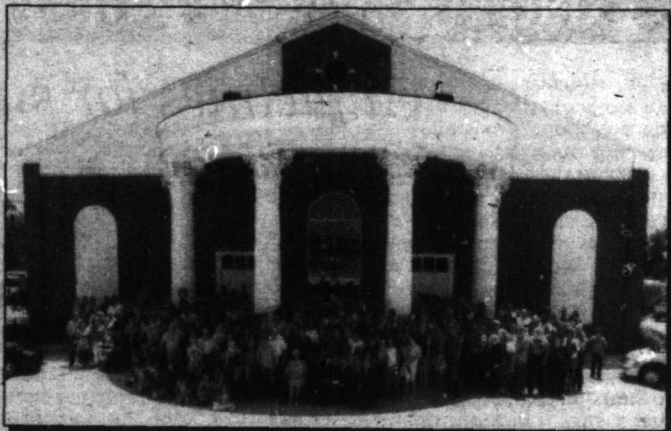
Neil Diamond Tribute Show from Branson
with Keith Allyn and Diana Lynn
Tuesday, Feb. 15th 6:00 pm • \$35.00 person, Limited seating

The Zambian Vocal Group from Dollywood
Saturday, Feb. 28th 5:30 pm • \$35 person Limited Seating
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3. Madden Church, Madden



4. Fair River Church, Brookhaven